

ABSTRACT

Dentistry of today has made enormous strides. A wide array of options have surfaced for replacement of missing teeth. Yet the most common way of treating edentulousness is still by means of a set of conventional full dentures. The performance of complete denture is not only determined by the anatomic and physiologic factors involved intraorally but also to a great extent on the patient's needs, psychologically. Oral Stereognosis is the manual identification of test samples placed intra orally using tongue and palate only. The understanding of oral stereognosis and its application in recognizing patient's satisfaction with complete denture therapy, which is otherwise enigmatic could provide better psychological acceptance.

This study aimed to see whether there was difference between stereognostic abilities before and after rehabilitation with complete dentures in newly edentulous patients and secondly patient satisfaction was assessed with a questionnaire on the second and third recall visits. Fifteen newly edentulous patients were included in this study and oral stereognostic assessment for them was carried out before insertion, on the day of insertion, one week after insertion and one month later. The patient's satisfaction with the dentures were assessed using questionnaire on the second and third recall visit. The scores were obtained and statistically analysed.

The results of the study denoted improvement in oral stereognostic score after denture usage and higher the level of perception lower is the satisfaction with dentures. Within the limitations of this study, scores which the patient gives for the questionnaire is mainly based on their attitude towards dental treatment and mental status of the patient during that appointment.

Keywords: Oral stereognosis, completely edentulous patients, new denture wearers, denture satisfaction